

## CONCLUSIONS

1. The Royal Collections of the Netherlands include more than a thousand objects of colonial origin; this is only a small proportion of what was once collected.
2. Almost all the objects were acquired as gifts. A small proportion of them - approximately ten per cent - were presented to King William III. Most of the others were given to Queen Emma and Queen Wilhelmina, mainly to mark special occasions such as an investiture, a birth, a jubilee or a wedding anniversary.
3. Nearly all the gifts come from Indonesia, Suriname and the Caribbean. A few examples of objects from the former colonies of other countries were also found.
4. The gifts were presented by private individuals and civic collectives, colonial administrative officials and military personnel, and by local rulers of the former Dutch East Indies.
5. Due to the often incomplete and unclear nature of the available source material, it was not possible to establish the full provenance of all the objects.
6. Although the vast majority of the gifts were presented in the context of unequal colonial relations, no direct indications were found that they were involuntarily ceded.
7. The presence of a small number of the gifts in the Royal Collections is possibly illegitimate and/or unjust. This concerns objects taken as loot or otherwise connected to military actions.
8. The research data gathered during the investigation must be systematically registered and made accessible online, for optimum transparency. Such transparency will be vital for facilitating an open dialogue about the collection with stakeholders in the countries of origin, on the basis of shared knowledge.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The present report should be made available in Dutch and English to representatives of the former colonial regions as a first step towards an open conversation about the future of the objects whose presence in the Royal Collections must be regarded as illegitimate or unjust.
2. The collected research data should be incorporated as fully as possible into the collection management system. Adding more provenance and biographical details to the collection database, and adding keywords relevant to the provenance of the objects, will allow potential links to be identified between objects, individuals and events, and make the collection more searchable.
3. Following this, the research data at the level of individual objects should be made accessible online in Dutch and English, so that stakeholders in the countries of origin can have access to the same knowledge concerning the objects, and are able to ask questions or provide additional information.
4. The objects whose presence in the Royal Collections may possibly be regarded as illegitimate or unjust must be prioritised when the research data is processed and digitised. The information on these objects must be made available online by the end of 2026 at the latest. An attempt must be made to make as many of the other colonial objects as possible accessible online by the end of 2026, and this operation should be completed in 2027.
5. In addition to providing access to the research data, the relevant archival documents, as well as photographs, maps and manuscripts, must also be made digitally accessible.
6. In addition to making the research data accessible, it is also desirable to incorporate the knowledge gained into additional educational material, so that historical context can be provided alongside the factual data, offering background to the objects. When the objects are loaned or exhibited internally, attention should be given to their provenance.
7. The documentation entered in the system must be updated in the future and additional data added when new sources and information come to light.
8. The House of Orange-Nassau Historic Collections Trust (SHVON) should in the near future consider the practicalities of information exchange and the organisation of the process for handling restitution requests. The manner in which the board seeks advice on specific requests requires particular consideration. This should include exploring the options for the short- or long-term loan of objects that are not eligible for restitution. The Royal Collections are a private collection. Advice may therefore be sought from the national *Commissie Koloniale Collecties* (Colonial Collections Committee), but solutions may also be achieved without the committee's involvement.